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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W
---------- 063940
R 181229Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0078
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USUN NEW YORK 922
ZEN RUEHPCM/AMEMBASSY MASERU
ZEN RUEHPCE/AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2599

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, MZ, AO, RH
SUBJECT: DEFENSE CHIEF SAYS SOUTH AFRICA US PREPARED

REF: PRETORIA 2568 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING ON SOUTH AFRICAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION PROGRAM "TOP LEVEL" ON JUNE 16, ADMIRAL H.H. BIERMANN, CHIEF OF SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE (SADF), SAID SADF IS PREPARED TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE WHICH MAY EMERGE FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA. STAATEMENT CLOSELY FOLLOWS FIRST PUBLIC DISCLOSURE THAT SADF HAD TAKEN OVER FROM POLICE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE OF NORTHERN BORDER IN CAPRIVI STRIP AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA (REFTEL).
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2. SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, BIERMANN SAID, AND NEITHER HAS EXPANSIONIST DESIRES NOR INTENTION TO INTERFERE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY.

" THERE IS NO REASON FOR US TO CHANGE THIS POSTURE," HE CONTINUED, " UNLESS THESE TERRORISTS THEMSELVES INITIATE AGGRESSION AGAINST US, AND AT THE PRESENT MOMENT, THERE IS NO REASON TO ASSUME THAT THEY WILL DO SO."

3. WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENTS IN PAT'S, BIERMANN SAID:
"IT IS OUR FERVENT HOPE THAT ATRUE DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION WILL EVENTUATE FOR ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE ALERT TO THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. WE KNOW THAT TERRORISTS ARE LOATH TO ABANDON FORCE IN FAVOR OF DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PROCEDURES BECAUSE THEY ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THEY ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION. WE KNOW THAT THESE SO-CALLED " LIBERATION MOVEMENTS' OWE THEIR SUSTAINED VIABILITY TO COMMUNIST SUPPORT MORE THAN TO ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR. WE ARE AWARE OF THE MANY OTHER FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION. WE HAVE APPRECIATED THESE ALTERNATIVES FOR A LONG TIME AND THEY HAVE BEEN CONSTANT FACTORS IN THE APPRECIATION (SIC) TO DETERMINE OUR STRATEGIC POLICY, IN THE SHORT AND INTERMEDIATE TERMS. THE SADF IS PREPARED TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE THAT COULD EMERGE ON THESE FRONTS."

4. TURNING TO RHODESIA, HE SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF THE PORTUGUESE COUP COULD BE MORE CRUCIAL AND IMMEDIATE THERE THAN FOR SOUTH AFRICA. ALTHOUGH RHODESIA HAS " BEEN HARRASSED BY AN ALARMING ACCRUAL OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES," BIERMANN CLAIMED THAT RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES DURING " PAST MOHTHS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVING SIGNAL SUCCESSES AGAINST THE INSURGENTS." THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED, IS MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE WITH BLACK LEADERS " WHO COULD REASONABLE CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE BLACK POPULATIONS OF THE TERRITORY."
HURD

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